

## STUDIES IN AUSTRALIAN ENTOMOLOGY.

## No. XI.

## DESCRIPTION OF A NEW GROUND BEETLE FROM VICTORIA.

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## MORPHNOS BESTI, n.sp.

Elliptical-oval, robust, convex, apterous; prothorax cordate with rectangular basal angles. Black.

Head large ( $7 \times 8$  mm.); front strongly biimpressed; genæ swollen below eyes. Mandibles prominent, decussating. Prothorax cordiform ( $7.2 \times 10$  mm.); sides lightly sinuate towards base; anterior margin lightly and widely emarginate in middle; anterior angles very near head, obtuse, not advanced; base widely emarginate, truncate on each side; basal angles rectangular, *not produced backwards*; lateral border wide, reflexed, continuing on to base at each side; lateral channel wide, curving widely on to base at each basal angle; posterior marginal setigerous puncture distinct, placed on border at basal angle (outside lateral channel); median line distinct. Elytra wide, oval ( $17 \times 11.5$  mm.); sides roundly narrowed to humeral angles, these obtuse, not marked; seven inner striae deep, sulciform, subcrenulate; interstices convex, third usually unipunctate near apex; eighth well developed on sides, obsolete on basal sixth, obliterate on apical fourth; ninth (forming bottom of the wide lateral channel) seriate-punctate; lateral margin wide, carinate and reflexed on basal third, thickened with rounded edge between basal third and apical sinuosity; marginal plica distinct but not interrupting lateral margin near apex. Posterior trochanters in ♂ stout, wide near apex, the apex itself forming a short stout cylindrical

curved hook ; in ♀ short, stout ; apex obtuse, not furnished with a hook. Length 29-31, breadth 11·5 mm.

*Hab.*—Grampian Mountains, Victoria (Messrs. D. Best and C. French, junr.; in October, under logs in damp places at Hall's Gap, near Stawell, Vic.).

Agreeing with *M. flindersi*, White, in all features of structural importance, but very distinct by its form more robust and convex; prothorax shorter, more cordate, more convex, the base truncate on each side with rectangular angles (the basal angles not produced backwards and acutely prominent), a large wide concave depression near each basal angle (the lateral basal part of the prothorax not depressed and explanate), the lateral border and channel continued past the basal angle for a little distance on to the base ; elytra wider, more oval, more convex, sides narrowed to the rounded humeral angles, base not nearly so much wider than the base of the prothorax, reflexed carina of the lateral border extending further backwards from the shoulders, margin hardly interrupted behind it, and much wider than in *M. flindersi*, lateral channel much wider and not interrupted at the posterior extremity of the reflexed part of the border, posterior trochanters in the ♂ stouter, shorter, with stouter and shorter apical hook.